

ABSTRACT

The present invention relates to the identification of antigenic and immunogenic peptide-based mimicry of mannose-containing cell-wall compounds characterizing mycobacterial infectious agents, such as *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*.

Amino acid molecules which are mimotopes of mannosylated lipoglycans, such as lipoarabinomannan (ManLAM), including at least one of the following characteristics: (a) being capable of binding to ManLAM binding antibodies; (b) being capable of eliciting production of ManLAM binding antibodies, are provided.

Also diagnostic methods for diagnosing mycobacterial infections and methods of vaccinating subjects against such infections. The diagnostic and vaccination methods employ the provided amino acid molecules.

Accordingly, a diagnostic kit and a vaccine for executing the aforementioned methods are provided.